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(*d*) whether any steps were taken to send the patient to a civil hospital for treatment;

(*e*) whether the prisoner was having any buttermilk for his diet before he got dysentery?

A.—The information has been called for.

Application from 'A' and 'B' class prisoners for transfers to 'C' class.

* 197-A *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any A and B class political prisoners applied for a change to C class; and

(*b*) if so, how many of each class, and for what reasons?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Two A class prisoners and six B class prisoners applied to Government for a change to C class mainly as a protest against the treatment meted out to Satyagraha prisoners.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether those transfers had any effect on the fate of the other C class prisoners?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Whatever was possible in the case of those other prisoners was being done, even before the protest was received from these particular prisoners?"

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"The hon. the Law Member said that everything was done to improve the conditions of the C class prisoners even before the protest was made by the A and B class prisoners. I want to know whether it was done by the Inspector-General of Prisons or the Superintendent of Prisons, or by the Law Member himself."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The Superintendents of Prisons and the officers under them and the Inspector-General."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Will the hon. the Law Member kindly give us some idea as to the A and B class prisoners who wanted the transfer?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Notice."

Alleged differentiation in the classification of the same prisoner.

* 197-B *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of instances where the same person having been convicted more than once was classified differently at each conviction together with reasons for the variations in the classification; and

(*b*) whether Paripudi Rama Mohan Rao of Cocanada was treated as a 'B' class prisoner at his first conviction and as 'C' class at his next conviction; and if so, why the classification was changed on the second occasion?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The only instance is that of Parupudi Rama Mohan Rao. When he was first convicted he was placed in 'B' class on the information regarding his status, etc., furnished by the Fourth Presidency Magistrate, Madras. This information has since been found to be incorrect. The Government have included

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Rama Mohan Rao in class 'C' at his second conviction on the basis of correct information furnished by the District Magistrate, East Godavari, to which district the convict belongs.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"On what was the District Magistrate's report based ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The change in the classification was due to this: Originally, this individual was convicted by the Fourth Presidency Magistrate, and he personally gave information to the Magistrate about his status, life and so on. On that information the prisoner was placed in the 'B' class. Subsequently, however, he was convicted by a court in East Godavari, and the prisoner in question is a native of that district. The Magistrate there naturally made fuller enquiries and obtained particulars regarding status, life, etc., of this prisoner and it was found that he was not entitled to be put in the 'B' class."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Was the Presidency Magistrate asked why the prisoner was put in the 'B' class originally ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"There is absolutely no reason for it ; because on the information furnished to the Magistrate by the prisoner himself, the Magistrate recommended him to be placed in the 'B' class, and the Government accepted that recommendation."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Was not this Magistrate aware that Mr. Rama Mohan Rao was capable of paying the fine of Rs. 1,000 imposed on him ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The Presidency Magistrate ?"

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Not the Presidency Magistrate ; but the Magistrate in East Godavari."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Notice."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Is the hon. the Law Member aware that this gentleman was find Rs. 1,000 ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Notice."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Did not the application put in by this Rama Mohan Rao contain a statement that he was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 1,000 ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"These details of the petition, I do not remember. The petition was sent to the District Magistrate after I received it here and he confirmed the original opinion which he had expressed."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"The Law Member may take it from me that the petition contains the statement that Rama Mohan Rao was find Rs. 1,000. Does that not show that the accused was in a position to pay the fine ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I shall take the information given by my friend as correct; but I want the further information whether he actually paid the fine."

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Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" He did not pay it; therefore it is he went to prison. But does not the Magistrate's statement that he was in a position to pay the fine indicate his status and position in life ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" If he was really in a position to pay the fine, he would have paid it. The very fact that he did not pay the fine shows that he was not in a position to do so."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Is not the hon. the Law Member aware that these satyagrahi prisoners do not pay the fine generally but prefer to go to jail ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am not aware, Sir."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Then, will the hon. the Law Member not call them satyagrahi prisoners ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not call them so; they call themselves so."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know whether or not the Magistrates fine these prisoners without reference to their ability to pay the fine ? " 11-30 a.m.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It is all left to the discretion of the trying Magistrate."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know whether the Magistrate's discretion is used, or not used, with or without the knowledge that a particular person tried before the Magistrate is able or not able to pay the fine ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" As I said before, it all depends entirely on the discretion of the Magistrates."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Is the hon. Law Member aware of any cases of satyagrahis, who are called volunteers, who have been fined such a large sum as thousand rupees ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I believe that there are some persons who were fined to that extent."

Applications for reclassification from prisoners in the Madras Penitentiary.

* 197-C Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many of the old convicts in the Madras Penitentiary applied to their respective District Magistrates for reclassification after recent Government orders regarding the same;

(b) how many applications were forwarded to the Magistrates and how many were detained by the Superintendent;

(c) why the Superintendent kept the applications of convicts pending without forwarding them or acting upon the recommendations of the Magistrates;